WORKS IN PROGRESS

VOLUME 13, NUMBER 4 | THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION | AUGUST 2002

JULY 8TH LOCAL ECO-ACTION

3 Lockdown To Drilling Equipment
9 Arrested To Stop the Pipeline

WIP News Service

Blockades Stop William Co.'s Drilling for a Day

Activists kicked off an eco-defense campaign by locking down to William's Energy Co.'s pipeline drilling equipment, stopping all work on the project for most of the day. The natural gas pipeline threatens sensitive endangered species habitat in the Black Lake Wildlife Preserve and in the Capital Forest, and is opposed by a broad coalition of local residents and environmentalists. Permits were denied by the State and county but were overruled by Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

30 to 40 activists arrived early in the morning to an empty worksite and unguarded drilling equipment, which they immediately locked their arms onto and hung banners from. Workers from Michel's Horizontal Drilling Company based in Brownsville Wisconsin arrived an hour later yelling "Hey, what the fuck?" (Exact quote) down into the pit. Activists conversed with the workers for a while, who seemed pretty entertained with the whole scene. Some even danced to chants of "Will the pipeline be defeated -- by the people by and by- - Will Williams join Enron in the sly lord in the sky?"

Thurston County Sheriffs arrived at

(continued page 7)

VOTE SEPT 17TH

Important Transit Issues On Ballot

Chris Fuess

In the same way that our "energy problem" is really an "energy use problem", our "transportation problem" is actually a "transportation use problem". Just as we should solve our energy problem by using energy more wisely we need to look to solve our transportation problem by using all modes of transportation more wisely. Our personal reliance of privately owned and operated automobile has done two things to us; it has made us weak and harmful. We are weakening as a nation because we are highly dependent on foreign oil, but this weakness also applies to the decline in our own bodily strength and health. It also makes us harmful is to ourselves (road rage, endangering the rest of society, destroying the natural environment) and to our neighbors by promoting war, and policies towards other nations that allow us to be obliviously non self-reliant. It is time we begin to take responsibility for our habits and support and use alternatives.

It is expected that there will be very low voter turnout this year in Thurston County because there are no state or US legislative races on the ballot. This makes it even more important for folks who care about transit to be sure to cast their ballot, especially considering that 40% of Washingtonians: many kids, disabled individuals, low-income, and seniors for instance, do not even have a driver's license nor a driving option.

Referendum 51 will only exacerbate transportation problems.

Referendum 51 is a statewide ballot measure crafted by the state legislature in March. It is a twenty year, $7.7 billion, transportation proposal funded by an additional 9 cent per gallon gas tax, additional truck weight fees, and a 1% tax on the sale of new and used cars. If it passes it will be the most expensive public works project in Washington history. 85% of the money would be used on road building projects, and only 15% would be for transportation choices like buses, light rail, passenger-only ferries, and trip reduction programs. This referendum differs very little from Tim Eyman's tax busting inactive, I-745, which failed in 2000 and which would have dedicated 90% of transit funds to be used exclusively on road building projects. It is tough to explain why the legislature spent two sessions to create a package the voters will likely reject again. It seems they were more concerned with playing politics and their own reelections in that they focused on getting pet transportation projects for their district rather, than crafting legislation that will really solve the whole state's transportation problems. Studies show that 65% of Washington State citizens support alternatives to privately operated vehicles and that these are the most effective way to move people and goods. R-51 also overwhelmingly prioritizes new capacity over maintenance and preservation of existing roads. Much of the funding from R-51 will only begin these projects. Finishing the projects started by R-51 will require tens of billions of dollars of new taxes. For example fully 1/3 of the revenue from R-51 will go to a single road-widening project on I-405 between Bellevue and Renton. They will then need another 5.5 billion to complete the project. Locally there is $1 million to be spent to figure out how to put a freeway on-ramp at Kaiser Rd. in West Olympia; this will be matched by local tax dollars. Why aren't we spending $2 million to figure out how to encourage growth that will not require us to get

(continued page 7)

Appropriate Response
Art in Wartime

A multi-media community art-in-wartime exhibit, scheduled to run from September 7th through September 11th, 2002, is seeking artwork submissions representing all points of view on war and wartime.

The exhibit, named Appropriate Response, will be housed in five (to-be-announced soon) different locations in or near downtown Olympia. The organizers' hopes are for the exhibit to be a way for people from all walks of life to express themselves through art. Exhibit director, Paloma Medina, plans for the event to run through the one-year anniversary of September 11th because she believes art can be a tool for communities to deal with tragic events and the division and social conflict that occurs as a result of them.

Rather than have the event be juried, a process which Medina feels would only discourage the accurate representation of the community, the decision was made early on to include all artwork submissions in the exhibit, granted they adhere to the theme and follow a few guidelines.

Because an art background is not required to submit work, and as a way to reach out to underrepresented communities, two free art workshops have been scheduled by Medina in collaboration with local host organizations.

Senior Services for South Sound will be hosting the first workshop in their Senior Center Lobby, located inside the Olympia Center. This workshop will be open to seniors, their friends and family, and will take place August 2nd from 9 - 11 am. In addition, Bread and Roses, an Olympia organization serving homeless community members, will be hosting the second workshop, to which anyone is welcome. The Bread and Roses workshop will be held August 4th from 2- 4 pm in their soup kitchen's dining hall located at 114 Cherry in downtown Olympia. Both workshops will be lead by Appropriate Response volunteers and will begin with a brief discussion on war and wartime issues, followed by an opportunity for participants to create art for submission in the exhibit. Some of the issues brought up for discussion and encouraged as themes for artworks will include rights and privileges during wartime; connections between environmental, gender, and racial issues and war or wartime; what it means to honor one's country; the role of dissent during wartime; and how tragic moments a dealt with historically.

Appropriate Response
PO Box 1022, Olympia, WA 98507
appropriateresponse@ureach.com
http://appropriateresponse.tripod.com

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Works In Progress is a community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Rainbow Coalition or the Workers In Progress and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions:

Correspondence, articles, art, and photographs are always welcome. Please, when possible, put articles on a 3.5" IBM-compatible disk (text preferred) or via e-mail. Artwork and photos should be camera-ready/ black & white.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number.

Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

If you don't see your issue being covered in Works In Progress, it's because you aren't writing about it! (Or aren't finding someone else to cover it!)

Send submissions to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295, <wip@olywa.net>

Back Issues:

Get your catalog of indexed WIPs below. Some back issues are available in the Timberland Library system. WIP is being archived on microfilm by the UW Library.

WORKERS IN PROGRESS

Dave Campbell	Margaret Love
Chelsea Chase	Sandy Mayes
Sebastian Chase	Hali Panneton
Tom Chenhall	Jeff Sowers
Renee Cruickshank	Sylvia Smith
Megan Davis	Pat Tassoni
Teresa Jennings	Alice Zillah
Jerome Johnson	

Mission Statement:

"Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. Works In Progress is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

Anti-Discrimination Clause:

We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Governing Tool:

The following statement will become part of the Editorial Policy and will be the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause: *WIP will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by WIP to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but WIP reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

WIP Schedule

Submission Deadline:

Friday, Aug. 23rd

Proofreading Meeting

Monday, Aug. 26th 6:30pm at Olympia Downtown Library

Everyone Welcome!

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Announcements, etc.

PFLAG Annual Picnic

Sunday, August 11, 1-5 pm

Once again out annual picnic will be held at Priest Point Park — on the water side of the park this year. It will be a potluck with discussion and socializing and fun in the sun. Bring goodies, eating utensils/plates and yard chairs — and feel free to bring guests.

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays provides opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity with the mission: To promote the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons, their families and friends through: **support**, to cope with an adverse society; **education**, to enlighten and ill-informed public; and **advocacy**, to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights. Call (360) 866-0511 or E-mail: info@pflag-olympia.org

Who's Personal Responsibility?

Thursday, August 22nd 7 - 11 pm
Sylvester Park, downtown Olympia

August 22nd is a significant date for the Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition, WROC, because five years ago, President Clinton signed the Personal Responsibility Act, better known as welfare reform. We find that name insulting, since the majority of adults collecting welfare are single parents raising their children without appropriate support from their other parent. And yet, for five years, the government has been dictating their version of personal responsibility to us. Our government is asking parents to put work first, children last. They force parents into low wage work that won't support their families and don't allow the education to improve wages.

It has been five years and many people are facing the end of their five year life time limit. The government has done little to address the barriers that prevent people from working. We think the government needs to learn something about responsibility.

WROC holds an annual event at Sylvester Park on this day to help educate our community about the realities of welfare reform and to provide free and fun activities for parents and children.

Join us for Who's Personal Responsibility? Resource and Information Fair, Music, Children's and Adults Activities, including a giant clock pinata to signify what we think of the government's time limit on people instead of poverty, music, speakers, poetry, and finally a movie with popcorn and ice cream. A good time will be had by all!

For more information, or to help out, call 352-9716 or wrocoly@wroc.org.

Women's Equality and Suffrage Day

Saturday, August 24th 11am - 3pm
Lacey Timberland Library

Come celebrate the 82nd anniversary of women winning the right to vote. Drop in any time and see history displays, suffragist costumes, videos of the votes for women movement and refreshments.

Since August 26, 1920, the U.S. Constitution has affirmed the right to vote for women via the 19th amendment. From the first American Rights Convention in 1848, voting rights for women were among the top demands for social justice. In fact, women's "inalienable right to the lective franchise" was first explicitly asserted at Seneca Falls. Thirty years later, the Susan B. Anthony Amendment to grant women the vote was first introduced into Congress in 1878. It took forty-two years more of marches, speeches, protests and parades before American women were considered equal citizens to males and legally entitled to vote.

Sponsored by Thurston County NOW, AAUW (American Association of University Women), and Washington Federation of State Employees Local #443 who encourage girls and young women to learn more about suffrage history and their right to vote. Wear a costume from these early years if you like, to share the spirit of these heroic women in our celebration. For information call 943-3126 or lryh@hotmail.com.

SOUTH SOUND
GREEN PAGES
South Sound's Monthly Environmental Newspaper

Green Pages is a forum for individuals and organizations concerned about the integrity of our environment and the quality of life in our community.

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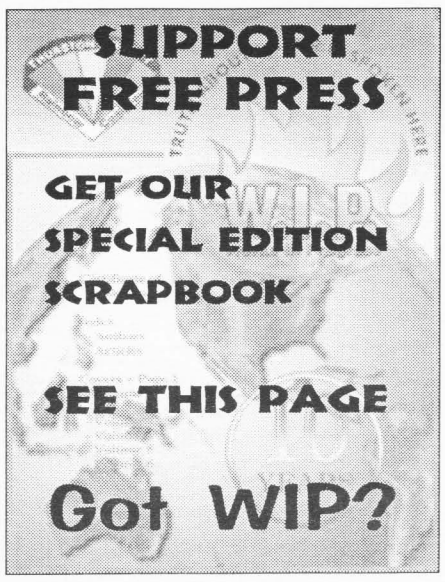
Only You Can Keep WIP Going for Another 10 Years



Subscriptions: ☐ Individual … $35 ☐ Low-Income …$15

Merchandise: ☐ WIP Flame LogoT-Shirt . . . $15 each; # _____ size(s)_____

☐ WIP 10-year Retrospective Scrapbook . . . $15 each

☐ Catalog/Index Listing…$1; back issues…$1/each (while supplies last)

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AUGUST 2002

citizens spying on citizens

Operation T.I.P.S.

- Terrorist Information and Prevention System (TIPS) is "a national reporting pilot program scheduled to start [this] month in 10 cities, with one million informants initially participating in the program."
- The government will utilize workers from "selected industries" that have access to homes, businesses and transportation systems, such as mail carriers, utility employees, truck drivers, train conductors, ship captains and others, to "be on the lookout for suspicious and terrorist-related activity"
- Reports from informants will be entered into databases "for future reference and/or action", and targeted individuals "will remain unaware of the existence of the reports and their contents."

Everywhere in America, a concerned worker can call a toll-free number and be connected directly to a hotline routing calls to the proper law enforcement agency or other responder organizations when appropriate.

www.citizencorps.gov

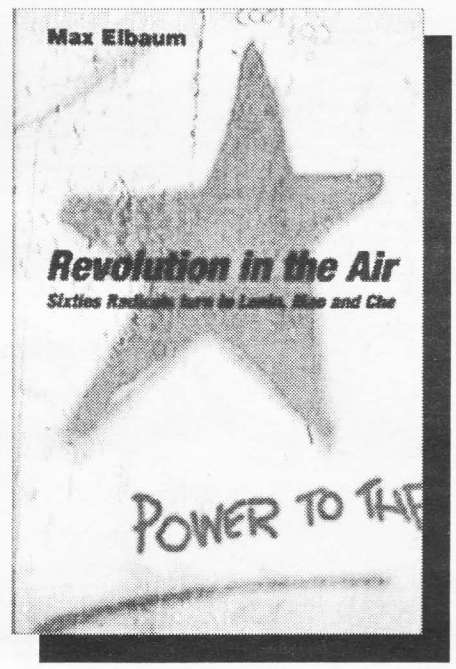
Sources: Ritt Goldstein in the *Sydney Morning Herald* (15 Jul 2002); Kathryn Casa of the *Brattleboro Reformer* (17 Jul 2002)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 **1834**: Slavery banned in British Empire **1955**: Georgia board of education orders Black teachers to resign from NAACP	**2** **1996**: Salvador Hernandez, 63, killed in Salem, OR when police shoot him 5x during breakfast interrupted by a drug raid	**3** **1997:** UPS go on strike across the nation **1981**: US air traffic controllers begin nationwide strike, ground 7,000 flights	**4** **1944**: Anne Frank discovered by Nazis **1964**: The bodies of three missing civil rights workers are found in Mississippi	**5** **1995**: Senate votes to deny funds for abortions of federal workers except in rape, incest or the mother's life is endangered	**6** **1998**: Former White House Aide Monica Lewinsky testifies in front of grand jury she had several sexual liaisons w/ Pres Clinton	**7** **1934**: Appeals Court rules feds may not ban the book "Ulysses" **1998**: Bombings at US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania kill 234
8 **1925**: 1000s of KKK march down Pennsylvania Avenue **1939**: Hitler orders all males 5 to 70 to register for war assignments	**9** **1995**: Skokomish Valley folks ask for logging moratorium; WA state says no, claims logging is only part of the flooding problem	**10** **1998**: White House releases figures proving July was hottest month worldwide since record-keeping began over a century ago	**11** **1935**: Nazi Storm Troopers stage rallies against German Jews **1965**: Watts Riot **1997**: Clinton uses line item veto for 1st time	**12** **1658**: 1st police force est. in N. America, New Amsterdam Colony, used for guarding against attacks by Natives/European powers	**13** **1831**: The Nat Turner slave insurrection **1945**: Thirty-five Jews sacrifice their lives to blow up Nazi rubber plant in Silesia	**14** **1900**: Marines assist in capture of Peking, ends Boxer Rebellion. **1998**: Fed appeals court rules FDA may not regulate tobacco
15 **1997**: Justice Dept says it has insufficient evidence to support prosecutions of high-ranking FBI officials for siege at Ruby Ridge	**16** **1939**: Fascist rebels in Spain took no prisoners upon capturing Badajoz. They executed 1,200 Loyalists by firing squad.	**17** **1948**: Alger Hiss comes face to face with his accuser, Whittaker Chambers, at a House Un-American Activities Committee hearing	**18** **1999**: GW Bush tells reporters he won't answer questions about allegations he used drugs, dismissing rumors as "ridiculous"	**19** **1996**: Nader accepts Green Party's nomination, declares candidacy a crusade against corporate domination of electoral process	**20** **1998**: US missiles hit pharmaceutical factory in Sudan and a compound in Afghanistan the US claimed where bin Laden was present	**21** **1997**: Washington Women's Education Foundation report shows 11% of women 16-64 live in poverty, 16% of women 75+
22 **1998**: Thurston County Sheriff Gary Edwards says to shoot cougars on sight; state game officials say no, a license is needed	**23** **1998**: Nat'l Security Adviser is asked on CNN why nothing has been found at the bombed Sudan factory but pharmaceuticals	**24** **1572**: St. Bartholomew Massacre; ends in October w/ 50,000 French Protestants killed at the instigation of Catherine de Medici	**25** **1998**: US intelligence officials admit evidence linking the Sudanese plant to bin Laden is less concrete than initially claimed	**26** **1998**: John Hopkins School of Public Health reports half billion face shortages of water; number is expected to be 2.8 billion by 2025	**27** **1949**: 8 people injured when a hostile anti-Communist mob breaks up a Paul Robeson concert outside of Peekskill, NY	**28** **1968**: Chicago police attack demonstrators outside the Democratic Convention with clubs; Mayor Daley swears on national television
29 **1997**: Men armed with axes slit the throats or decapitate more than 300 people of Rais, a small village in Algeria	**30** **1999**: Reports says teens who don't get along w/ fathers are at greater risk of smoking, drinking and using drugs (68% more)	**31** **1933**: NY grand jury asks flogging for 3, whipping post restored **1970**: Philadelphia cops raid three Black Panthers centers	***The Terrorism Information and Prevention System means the US will have a higher percentage of citizen informants than the former East Germany through the infamous Stasi secret police. The program would use a minimum of 4 percent of Americans to report "suspicious activity".*** **Ritt Goldstein**			

BOOK REVIEW

Something In the Air

Revolution in the Air: Sixties Radicals Turn To Lenin, Mao and Che



Ron Jacobs

***Revolution in the Air: Sixties Radicals turn to Lenin, Mao and Che* by Max Elbaum, Verso Press**

I can remember the moment as if it were yesterday. I was at a 1973 Impeach Nixon rally in NYC when some rather loud young people marched into the park where the rally was being held. I took a leaflet proffered by one of the folks in the group and looked for their name, something I almost always do when handed a piece of propaganda. On the bottom of the second side it read "Attica Brigades." This group was the youth-student wing of the Revolutionary Union, which was one of many Marxist-Leninist groups in existence at the time. That was my introduction to the Seventies Left in the United States. Max Elbaum's new book, *Revolution In the Air*, introduces today's reader to the milieu. In addition, it explains many of the nuances I missed during my involvement -- something that was easy to do since my perspective was colored by my involvement with the Attica Brigades successor -- the Revolutionary Student Brigades.

Elbaum's text traces the history of what many called the New Communist Movement in the United States. This movement, which was made up of several groups espousing variations of Marxist-Leninist (usually with a good deal of Mao thrown in) thought, was born out of the disintegration of various organizations in the antiracist/antiwar struggle, especially the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) and the growing realization among many of the period's most committed activists that the New Left's rather amorphous politics were not enough to rid the world of US imperialism. Another trend that rose from this disintegration was that of armed struggle/terrorism -- a trend best exemplified by the Weatherman/Weather Underground Organization and the Eldridge Cleaver wing of the Black Panther Party (which eventually gave birth to the Black Liberation Army). *Revolution in the Air*, like much of the Sixties literature, pinpoints 1968 as the year that forced a realization among many US left activists that revolution was the solution to the systemic racism and war they were opposing. Likewise, Elbaum also discards the so-called "good sixties/bad sixties" dynamic favored by many Sixties commentators whose politics since that period have moved to the right. This dynamic assumes that the early days of SDS and SNCC -- before the takeover of Columbia in Spring 1968 and Black Power -- were the best days of the Movement and the days post-1968 were "bad' because that's when the Marxist-Leninists and crazy anarchists bent on revolution took over. When one operates from this context, s/he is likely to present an incomplete and ultimately unlikely history.

For one who was there, *Revolution in the Air* is like a flashback without the rhetoric. Elbaum details the New Communist Movement's attempts to educate itself in the Marxist-Leninist canon and apply it to the events of the early 1970s in the United States. He identifies the key players: the groups from which the activists came -- organizations organized along revolutionary nationalism representing African-Americans, Latinos and Asian-Americans, mostly white radical youth and student groups, revolutionary worker's organizations, and the independent socialist weekly *The Guardian*. In addition, he tells how and why the young activists of the anti-racist and antiwar movement moved towards party-building and away from the spontaneity of the popular extra-parliamentary movements of the Sixties decade. Primary to his analysis is the belief held by many of the New Communist Movement's adherents that the events of 1968 were tantamount to the events of 1905 in Czarist Russia. If one accepted this consciously or otherwise, than the next step was to build a party that could make certain that the mistakes made in the failed rebellions of 1968 would be corrected and America would see a Seventies' version of the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917.

Elbaum's text traces the history of the movement, which was born out of the disintegration of various organizations in the antiracist/antiwar struggle

On the other hand, if one is new to the anti-capitalist movement and/or the Left, than reading this book requires a short history lesson on the Sixties movement against war and racism and the role of the Left in that movement. The first chapter and the introduction are a good beginning to that lesson, but today's young activists most likely will want to read more. Elbaum does a more than adequate job on describing the role of the Old Left in the U.S. and its influence on the New Communist Movement, especially because much of the New Communist Movement's analysis and activities were defined in reaction to what they perceived to be the revisionism of the Left (especially that of the CPUSA) that preceded it.

Even more fundamentally, today's young activists might wonder what was the attraction of the Leninist model in the first place, given today's almost religious insistence on decentralization and non-vanguardism prevalent in most sectors of the current popular left and anarchist movements. *Revolution in the Air* takes this question seriously and answers it accurately and effectively.

This is done via a brief but workable history of the development of Marxist-Leninist thought and its application since the 1917 October revolution. The reader is told how that development was affected by the application of the theory and interpreted, or misinterpreted. For example, how Lenin's firm belief in the necessity for dissenting opinions within the revolutionary party while maintaining a unity of action became Stalin's insistence on total allegiance to the party. Unfortunately, many formations in the New Communist Movement eventually echoed this intolerance, at least in their reaction to other leftist organizations. Elbaum writes of the positives of this movement -- the energy, commitment and solidarity -- and cautions activists of the new century that "the fact that no movement organization could sustain such positive features over the long haul indicates that a better way of political organization than Stalinist hierarchy needs to be found."

To prove his point, Elbaum relates the next phase of the movement's history, writing about the turmoil in the movement caused by the attempts by Boston government officials to bus working-class and poor Black students from the Roxbury section of Boston to the mostly white Southie and Charlestown working-class sections. RU's dramatic turnabout regarding the existence of a separate Black nation in the U.S. caused it to see busing in Boston not as anti-racist but as an attempt by the rulers to split the working-class along racial lines. Although a couple other Marxist-Leninist groups (some composed primarily of people of color) shared this analysis, only the Revolutionary Union (RU) aligned itself with some of the more racist elements of the anti-busing movement. Meanwhile, RU was distancing itself from many of its youthful supporters by opposing the counterculture, homosexuality, and calling for those unmarried couples living together to get married. All of this was in an attempt to relate to what they considered to be the proletariat and stemmed from their understanding of (and allegiance to) the communist theory they were reading and discussing. Of course, RU was not alone in its odd twists and turns. The shrinking base of support combined with a fundamentalist adherence to the texts of Lenin, Stalin and Mao caused many groups in the movement to make similar mistakes. It was only because of RU's larger size and early leadership that their mutations had a greater effect. After the busing battle was over, RU's leadership in the movement was gone.

What followed was a series of struggles for leadership by other sects, a virtual collapse and rebirth with different organizations at the helm in the 1980s, and the eventual disintegration of the movement after the fall of the Stalinist bureaucracies in Europe and China's total embrace of capitalism. In a similar manner, Elbaum describes the other issue that was even more decisive in splitting the New Communist Movement. This was when China shifted its foreign policy by identifying the Soviet Union, and not U.S. imperialism, as the biggest enemy of the world's working people. For a movement that had come out of one of the greatest anti-imperialist struggles in the history of the United States -- the movement against America's war in Vietnam -- this shift was like an earthquake.

In short, the entire movement suffered from ultraleftism throughout most of its history. This was not merely because of its members' attraction to this type of communism. It was also related to their belief that the best way to build a large party was to begin by building a small, revolutionarily "pure" party. This insistence on purity was bound to foment sectarianism and infighting, especially as the movement's potential base of support -- the US working class -- turned rightward while US capitalism went through recession after recession and took it out on the workers. Despite its many faults, however, the New Communist Movement honestly attempted to address every aspect of US capitalist society. Furthermore, it took seriously the task of organizing a revolutionary challenge to US imperialism. Nothing was immune from its members' critical eye. Max Elbaum does a more than credible job at documenting the movement's development, its mistakes, its effects on the radical movement in the United States, and its relation to the world. As histories of the Sixties and their aftermath go, *Revolution in the Air* is one that stands with the best, not only in regards to its approach and style, but especially in the lessons both historians and activist can learn from it. Like Elbaum comments in the text: "hindsight should not be used to smugly dismiss [the New Communist Movement], but to analytically disentangle its positive from its negative side." This book is an essential part of that analysis.

Ron Jacobs is an anti-imperialist activist who works in a library. He is the author of The Way the Wind Blew: A History of the Weather Underground *(Verso, 1997) This review appeared in slightly different form in* Clamor *magazine.* ◆

OPEN LETTER

On Expulsion From Mexico

Dan Leahy

On May 6, 2002, the Mexican government expelled me and seventeen of my students from Mexico. It said we had "engaged in activities not authorized by your status as tourists."

I am writing to explain what happened.

I am also writing to ask that you send a letter to Presidente Vicente Fox Quezada (ciudadano@presidencia.gob.mx) and Secretario Santiago Creel Miranda (gestion@segob.gob.mx) with a copy to me (leahyd@evergreen.edu) asking that our expulsion order be annulled. Please call me at (360) 867-6478 if you have questions or comments.

My class was called The Mexican Nation State. It was a full time, two-month program.

For most of April, we traveled by bus from the city of Chihuahua through Mexico City to the state of Morelos. We studied the history of Mexican Independence, the Mexican Revolution and the contemporary political economy. We did this by staying in seven cities, visiting museums and historical sites, listening to lectures by local historians and university professors and by reading and seminaring on books.

During May, each student was scheduled to live with a Mexican family in the town of San Patricio/Melaque in the state of Jalisco. Students contributed $4,000 into a construction fund for the town's proposed High School. In exchange, the families of high school students offered their homes and hospitality to my students for one month.

Unfortunately, we never made it.

On the evening of May 2nd, as we traveled to San Patricio/Melaque, a heavily armed convoy of 35 to 40 federal police and immigration officers stopped our bus outside the city of Guadalajara at about 6:00 pm. This police force held us incommunicado for approximately four hours without explanation and without access to our consulate. They then put us on a plane to Los Angeles. We arrived at about 11:30 p.m. One of my students, who was not traveling with us, was held incommunicado and interrogated for over seven hours before being flown from Mexico City to Los Angeles on the same evening.

So, why were we expelled?

The only formal explanation we have received from the Mexican government states that we violated Article 11 of the Mexican constitution, which concerns immigration. Our expulsion order states in Spanish, "... Ustedes realizaron actividades para las cuales no estaban autorizados en su condicion de turistas..." or in my translation, "you engaged in activities not authorized by your status as tourists."

As much as Mexico's television network, Televisa, or the *Olympian* newspaper want to charge us with committing "political acts" that would violate Article 33 of the Mexican constitution, this is **not** what we have been expelled for.

So, if the Mexican government has not specified what "activities" we engaged in that were not authorized by our tourist visas and we were not expelled for "political acts" that violated Article 33 of the Mexican constitution, why were we expelled?

This is why I think we were expelled.

May 1st is a national holiday in Mexico. The holiday is called the "International Day of Work" and has been celebrated by parades throughout Mexico for over 70 years. This parade honors the American workers' fight in the late 1880s for the eight-hour day. It is also a parade where union members, peasants and community groups express their demands to the federal government. In Mexico City alone, between 500,000 and 1 million people parade through the streets to the main square called the Zocalo.

Like thousands of other foreign nationals, I and 15 of my students marched in this parade.

I have marched in this parade and many other parades in Mexico over the last ten years.

Class photo at Museo de Francisco Villa in Parral

Is it illegal or a prohibited "political act" for foreigners to march in this **international** parade expressing cross border solidarity? I do not believe it is. The Mexican government has not said that it is. If it were illegal, thousands of foreign nationals would have been expelled on May 2nd.

Why only us?

We marched with a contingent of peasants from San Salvador Atenco, a farming community on the outskirts of Mexico City. Since October, these farmers have been opposing the taking of their communally owned land for the construction of a new 11,000-acre, six-runway airport. All of my students conduct a research project and two of my students visited this farming community to find out about the conflict. The farmers invited us to participate with them in the May Day Parade and we did.

When the farmers march, they march with their machetes as symbols of their work as farmers. When my class marched in Mexico, we marched wearing Mexico's symbol of international solidarity, the T-shirt of the St. Patrick's Battalion.

This Battalion of Irish Soldiers fought along side the Mexican army against the U.S. invasion in 1847. Mexico recognizes the Battalion in its federal schoolbooks as the symbol of international solidarity, honors it with plaques throughout Mexico and holds a national ceremony attended by the Mexican President and Irish Ambassador in Mexico City. When we marched as the Battalion in a parade in Parral, Chihuahua, on April 12th to celebrate Elisa Griensen, local historians, teachers, and community leaders honored my students for their knowledge of and commitment to Mexican history.

However, the combination of the farmers' militant opposition to the airport and the Battalion's symbol of international solidarity must have been too much for the privately owned television network, Televisa. We definitely struck a nerve.

On the evening of May 1st, Televisa network commentators charged us with insulting all of Mexico by participating in this parade. The administration of President Vicente Fox, who is strongly committed to building the airport, responded by expelling us the next day, May 2nd. One way of thinking about this proposed airport, which would be the largest in Latin America, is as a link between NAFTA and the proposed FTAA.

Clearly we were expelled for expressing international social solidarity with the Atenco farmers who oppose this airport and the taking of their communal land.

Clearly we were expelled for expressing international social solidarity with the Atenco farmers who oppose this airport and the taking of their communal land.

Our expulsion, the first by the Vicente Fox administration, is of great concern to Mexican civil society, to human rights groups and to the many international solidarity groups who work closely with various sectors of the Mexican society. Many of these groups have sent letters to President Fox asking that our expulsion be annulled.

In addition, other groups who focus on the expansion of free trade agreements feel our expulsion is a warning to those planning to come to Cancun, Mexico for the September 2003 meeting of the World Trade Organization.

When my students got back to Olympia, it would have been very easy for them to forget the Atenco farmers, apologize to the Mexican government for marching with them and ask forgiveness for unspecified transgressions. This is the approach Evergreen's Provost took when in his May 15th letter to the Mexican government he made the incriminating statement that the students' activities "constituted political acts" and were to be regretted.

The class in Cuatla, under a statue of Emiliano Zapata

However, as fifteen of my students said in their letter of May 22nd:

"We did not come to Mexico to march with those farmers from San Salvador Atenco, but we were proud they invited us to march with them in the International Day of Work Parade and we were proud to be by their side."

This was a courageous statement since all fifteen knew that their signature on this letter might mean a permanent loss of access to a people, culture and land they have come to love.

But the students are also fighting back. On May 21st, sixteen of them filed an appeal of the expulsion with the National Institute of Immigration in Mexico City, contending that their expulsion violated numerous articles of the Mexican constitution. They are asking that their expulsion order be annulled and have begun a vigorous campaign to gather support for their cause.

Mexican social groups also filed a complaint with Mexico City's Commission on Human Rights and expect this complaint to move to the National level in the near future. They have also purchased ads in national newspapers calling for the expulsion order to be annulled. The Atenco farmers, at great risk to themselves, blocked a federal highway for five hours to protest the expulsion.

Please fax a letter or send an email message asking that the expulsion be annulled. Expressions of social solidarity are vitally important in today's global world.

Also, please consider sending a donation to the students' legal defense fund by writing a check to the "Heroico Batallon de San Patricio." This is a not-for-profit corporation and I am a member of its Board. The address is PO Box 602, Olympia, Wa. 98507.

I will do my best to keep you informed of our progress. Thank you for your help and solidarity.

Dan Leahy is a Member of the Faculty at The Evergreen State College (360) 867-6478 leahyd@evergreen.edu

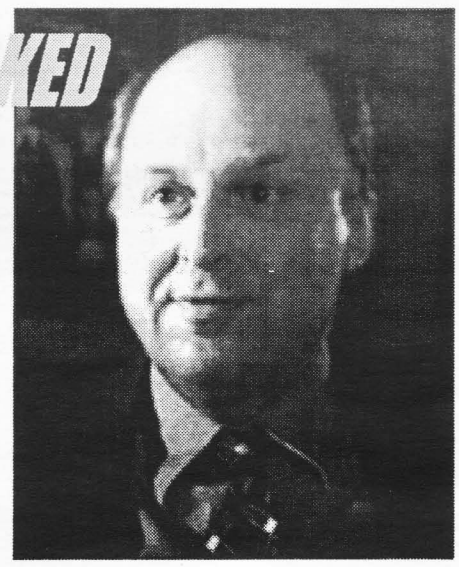
Fax and Emails should be directed to:
Presidente Vicente Fox Quezada
Fax: 011 52 55 55 22 94 13
ciudadano@presidencia.gob.mx

Secretario Santiago Creel Miranda
Fax: 011 52 55 50 93 34 14
gestion@segob.mx ◆

AmBushed and Bushwhacked

Know More's "Evil-Doer" of the Month:

UN Ambassador John Negroponte



Nancy West

Ed. note: *This is the first in a series of profiles of international and national "evil-doers" from Know More: Progressive Education Group of South Sound.*

In these times of increasing threats of war and globalized political actions, it is important to know more about the key players who advise and guide our government and military leaders. Knowing how they served in the past will help us to know what we can expect of them in the present. Therefore, the following brief biography is presented on George W. Bush's appointee, John Negroponte, the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations.

A few examples are offered to illustrate Mr. Negroponte's past period of service as the U.S. Ambassador to Honduras serving from 1981 through 1985. During this period the Nicaraguan Contra War was in full swing with many instances of CIA-sponsored terrorism being reported. We are told that Mr Negroponte was a good ambassador and a good ambassador is willing to serve in many ways.

A good ambassador willingly follows his president's orders. So, he was more than willing to "carry out the covert strategy of the Reagan administration to crush the Sandinista government in Nicaragua."

Being helpful is another characteristic of a good ambassador. In fact, Mr. Negroponte was there to offer assistance in any way he could. He was said to have been very helpful to the Nicaraguan Contras. "In early 1984, two U.S. mercenaries, Thomas Posey and Dana Parker, contacted Negroponte, stating they wanted to supply arms to the Contra army after the U.S. Congress had banned governmental aid. Documents show that Negroponte connected the two with a contact in the Honduran military. The operation was exposed nine months later, at which point the Reagan administration denied any U.S. government involvement, despite Negroponte's contact earlier that year. Other documents uncovered a scheme of Negroponte and then-Vice President George Bush to funnel Contra aid money through the Honduran government."

A good ambassador is also a good friend. And a good friend knows how to keep secrets. So, Mr. Negroponte was a good friend indeed. He "helped conceal from Congress the murder, kidnapping and torture abuses of a CIA-equipped and trained Honduran military unit, Battalion 3-16." "This unit, which received training in torture techniques from Argentine 'dirty war' veterans and the CIA (according to a prize-winning Baltimore Sun series which in part examined Negroponte's role in Honduras), is widely suspected of "disappearing" over 180 suspected "subversives" in the 1980s. At the time, anyone opposed to Honduras' use as a staging ground for President Reagan's anti-Sandinista campaign was generally considered a "subversive."

Working well with others is another trait of a good ambassador. "During his ambassadorship in Honduras from 1981 to 1985, Negroponte was known to have had close working ties to egregious local abusers of human rights. One of the most notable of these unsavory characters was then-Colonel Gustavo Alvarez Martinez, at the time Honduras' military chief and the de facto strongman of the country. Promoted to General, Alvarez was later assassinated after returning from the U.S., where he had sought refuge from his senior military colleagues after refusing to share the large bribes that he had received via the U.S. embassy. This largesse was a reward for facilitating the conversion of his country into a base to wage the Contra war against the incumbent leftist Sandinista government in Nicaragua." Alvarez was perhaps most infamous for his close connections to the death squad, Battalion 316.

Nancy West, a member of Know More, resides in the South Sound area.

To 'know more', check out the following references:

http://www.maryknoll.org/GLOBAL/ALERTS/no_negroponte.htm

http://www.cnn.com/SPECIALS/cold.war/episodes/18/interviews/negroponte/

◆

John Negroponte in a nutshell...

"Negroponte, the son of a Greek-American shipping magnate, was born in London in 1939, graduated from Yale, and entered the Foreign Service in 1960. From 1971 to 1973, Negroponte was the officer-in-charge for Vietnam at the National Security Council (NSC) under Henry Kissinger. In 1987, during the administration of George Bush the elder, Negroponte returned to the NSC to work under Colin Powell as deputy assistant to the president for national security affairs. Within two years, he was back in Latin America; Bush appointed Negroponte ambassador to Mexico, where he served from July 1989 to September 1993. There, he officiated at the block-long, fortified embassy and directed, among other things, U.S. intelligence services to assist the war against the Zapatista rebels of Chiapas."

by Foreign Policy In Focus

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(Proposition, continued)

into our cars, things like community redevelopment and rezoning?

How Proposition 1 can help

Proposition 1 is a local Proposition that would increase sales tax by 3 tenths of 1% in Yelm, Olympia, Lacey, Tumwater and the associated urban growth boundaries. This equates to 3 cents for every $10 dollars spent on taxable items. This revenue would be used to fund the operations of Intercity Transit the local transit provider in Thurston County. This would restore funding that IT lost in late 1999 after I-695. IT has been operating on emergency funds set up by the legislature since then, but that funding will run out in late 2003. With the emergency funding they were able to bring back some service but they still had to cut 40% of service. If no additional funding is granted, IT will again have to cut back service by another 20%.

We certainly are not going to solve the transportation problem by only focusing on adding new capacity. Studies show that besides the delays caused by the construction itself the new capacity is usually fully used up in the first five years after the construction is completed. As more autos are sold that get worse gas mileage and our roads turn into parking lots, our average efficiency will quickly approach less than 1 mile a gallon. Last month the Bush Administration finally acknowledged that human actions, specifically the emission of greenhouse gases, are responsible for the effects of global warming. Although, they recommend adapting to these inevitable changes using appliances such as air conditioning. These effects are expected to last at least for the next 100 years or so, and that assumes that we will contribute no more CO2 to the atmosphere. A 20 year plan such as Ref. 51 that will only increase the rate that we produce CO2 which will just prolong the damage. An international group of petroleum specialists have determined that "global supplies of crude oil will peak as early as 2010 and then start to decline, ushering in an era of soaring energy prices and economic upheaval." Let's dump the 20th-century solution to a 21st-century problem, Referendum 51, and focus on regional solutions, Proposition 1, which cost less and can be expanded or changed to fit our needs later.

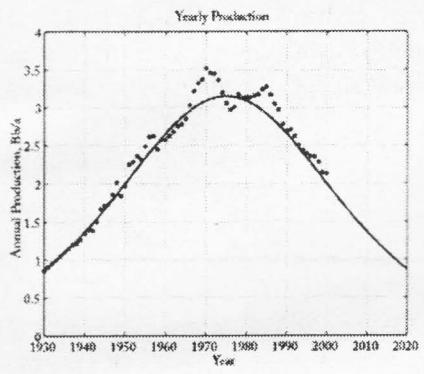

Image w/text By Seppo Korpela, Carfree Times, January 2002.

(Pipeline, continued)

the action an hour later, which lead to a standoff. After a few hours of stalling tactics, police reinforcements arrived and waded into the crowd and began making arrests. Independent media activists were the first to be targeted, and their videos were seized. After a few minutes of much confusion and panic, activists retreated into nearby woods and were chased by police who used scare-tactics (screaming and yelling "You'd better run faster") and who surprised activists by aggressively continuing to try to arrest those who were clearly leaving the scene of the action as they maneuvered through the forest. A news helicopter that they suspect was relaying information to law enforcement also followed activists.

The police then began removing the lockdowns, which took a few hours, since local cops have very little experience dealing with this from of protest. After a bumbling and comical trial-and-error process the police finally figured out how the lockboxes were designed and removed the lockdowns, causing a great deal of pain to the activists who were being removed.

Drilling was effectively stopped for the day. There were a total of 9 arrests. A tree-sit exists in the area to help block the drilling, and was still up and running as of the time of the writing of this story.

This is only one step of many in the ongoing community and eco-defense campaign by Cascade Defense Network to stop William Co.'s pipeline, sending the company the way of Enron while preserving local communities and wildlife refuges. For more information contact fightthepipeline@olynetwork.org

Background:

Williams Co./ Northwest Pipeline is planning too build a 49-mile, 20-inch natural gas pipeline from Ranier to Satsop beginning June 2002. The proposed pipeline goes through the Olympia area, including neighborhoods, the McClane Creek Nature Trail, and the Black River unit of the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge.

* Since 1986, there have been 5,700 pipeline accidents, 325 deaths, 1,500 injuries and $85 million in environmental damage in the US. On average there is one pipeline accident every day and every year 6 million gallons of hazardous material are spilled in the US. (Office of Sen. Patty Murray)

* The pipeline will cross rivers, streams, and wetlands 37 times and will cross sensitive local habitat for six threatened species.

* Thurston County's decision to deny environmental permits for pipeline construction is in danger of a federal override.

* 50% of this 20-inch pipeline will be built within 10 ft. of a natural gas pipeline built in the 1950's, in an area where seismic activity is present!

* The pipeline will supply Duke Energy's Combustion Turbine Plant in Satsop, which will only employ 27 people when fully operational. Most of the power generated from the Satsop plant will be sold on the wholesale power market and for distribution in other states.

Both Tulsa based Williams Co. and North Carolina based Duke Energy are currently being sued by the State of California for price manipulation. Williams Co. is currently being sued by their stockholders, and employees for failure to disclose financial information. Duke Energy is being sued by the Dept. of Justice for Clean Air Act violations. Are these the kind of companies we want doing business in our community?

www.olynetwork.org/ssws ◆

by Blue Deer

The Grays Harbor Lateral Project has begun drilling in order to install a pipeline which begins near Vail and leads to the Satsop Power Plant. The company responsible for installing the pipeline is the Williams Corporation out of Tulsa, OK. Their track record includes the Bellingham blast which killed two children two years ago (NOTE TO EDITOR: I have a clear photo of the blast if you're interested). They are also 17 billion dollars in debt and are currently being sued by their shareholders. Thurston County refused them permits but the Feds stepped in and gave it a rush job green light despite the above mentioned problems and the endangered species which are in the area to be clearcut and drilled.

John Wisnuski of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission recently graced us with his D.C. presence on a brief visit where he clearly stated that no economic background nor safety track record of the company were part of the permitting process. I called him when he arrived back in D.C., and if you would like to have a chat with him, his office number is: (202) 208-1073.

The DOE, the EPA, DNR, Fish and Wildlife all have said they have No Jurisdiction in this project. Pipelines, I was told, are carte blanche. Even with companies going under.

As we speak, workers are drilling through Quality Rock Quarry, which is, also, a dump site for Cascade Pole, which is a superfund site located in Olympia. Clearcutting is ready to happen in endangered species habitat.

We are now mobilizing to shut down this project which is not needed. This is part of Bush's energy flood, which spells out profits for Enron-type execs. (I really suggest calling Wisnuski at FIRC if you want to get a good corruption vibe.) This is glut energy that no one needs, and that has been proven effectually by people early on when the project was first denied permitting.

If you're a labor person, does it concern you that workers have not been told they are exposing themselves to hazardous waste? If you care about the environment, does it concern you that the habitat of endangered species is not protected one iota? Talk to Steve Sauners at DNR about that or Curt Leigh at Fish and Wildlife to get a feel for the lack of rights for habitat. Spotted owls and Marbled Murrelets, along with the Oregon spotted frog are all at risk. It has been horrible being out there just hearing the clearcuts.

I tried to go with Wisnuski and the Williams representative on a discovery walk on the pipeline and was told that because of 911 I could not, because of potential terrorism. However, it was the Williams Corporation that is a homeland security problem, they blew up children and have the F@#$%'n nerve to come back and do more damage.

There has been amazing, beautiful action occurring already on this — I send big aloha to you all, you know who you are. And if you aren't one of them yet, then join us now! Anyway, it's shitty times out there, but great folks read this, and we're @ 705-2241 if anyone is interested in further mobilization.

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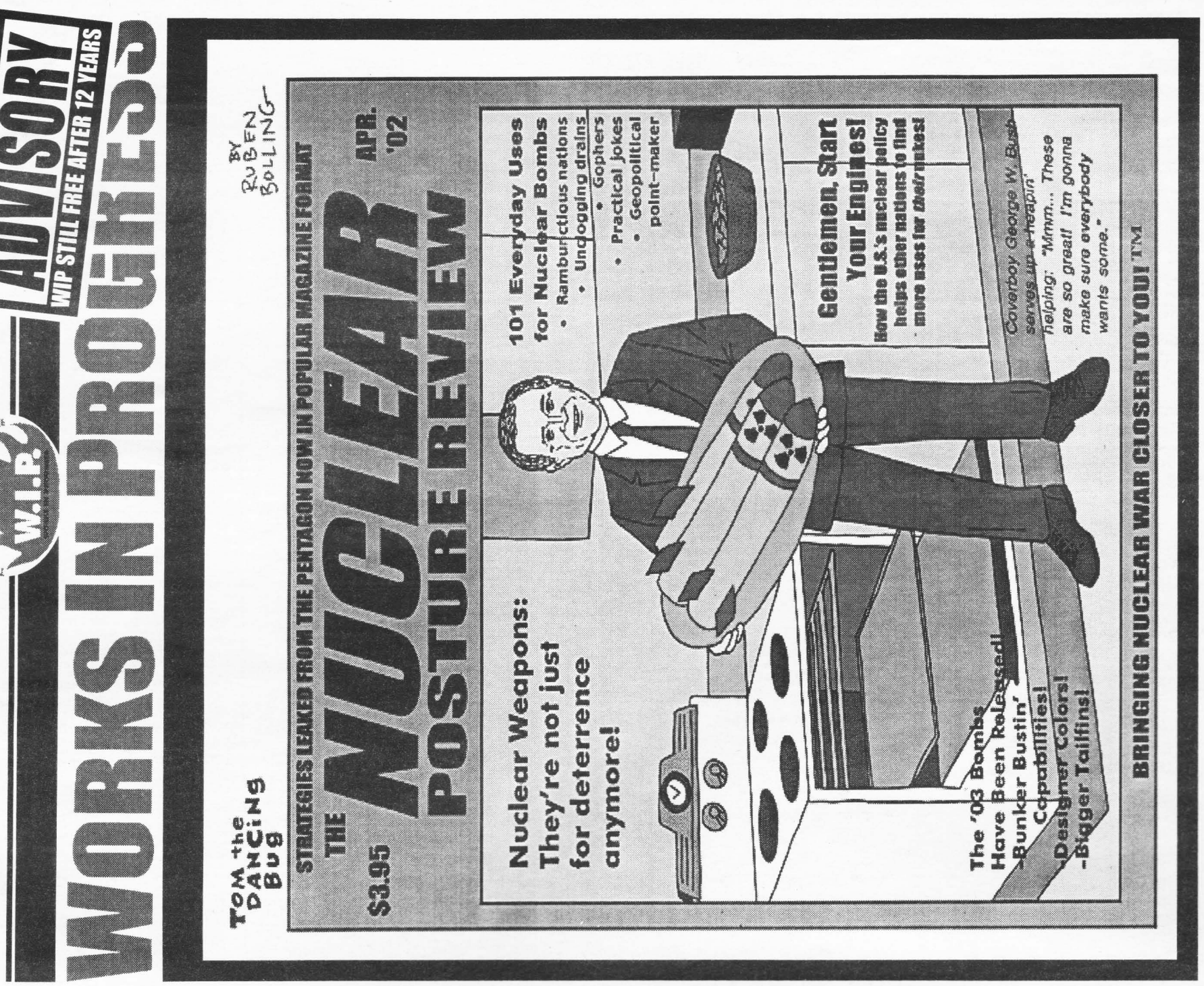
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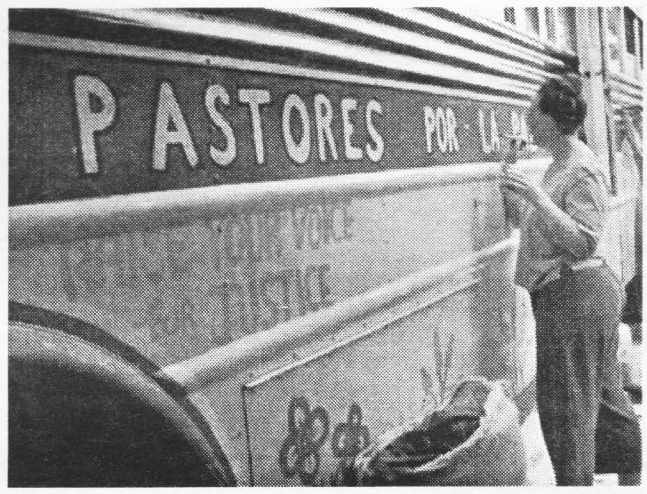
"Evil-Doer" of the Month
UN Ambassador John Negroponte



Pastors for Peace Caravan

Volunteers from the Olympia community as well as Americorps, paintbrushes in hand, spruce up the local Pastors for Peace schoolbus headed to Cuba as part of the 13th U.S.-Cuba Friendshipment caravan, bringing material aid, including medical supplies and computers to our island neighbor while challenging the inhumane 42 year old U.S. economic embargo.

Pastors for Peace, part of Interreligious Faith-based Community Organizations, also engages in sending caravans of aid to places like Nicaragua , Chiapas, etc.

For more info: www.ifco.org ifco@igc.org
US/Cuba caravan donations:
Pastors for Peace, IFCO
402 W. 145th St, NY, NY 10031
(212) 926-5757

photos/text by hali panneton

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